

#4
NIP-232

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

K. ARAKI et al

Serial No.

Filed: March 22, 2001

For: METHOD OF OFFERING WALL-THICKNESS THINNING PREDICTION
INFORMATION, AND COMPUTER-READABLE RECORDING MEDIUM
STORING WALL-THICKNESS THINNING PREDICTION PROGRAM, AND
METHOD OF PLANNING PIPING WORK PLAN

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)
UNDER § 1.97 AND § 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 22, 2001

Sir:

1. This IDS should be considered:

(a) when filed within three months of the filing date of the present application, or within three months of the filing date of the National Stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs last;

(b) when filed before the mailing date of either a Final Rejection under § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311, whichever occurs first and when 1(a) does not apply. For this purpose, there is included herein either a certification in section 4 below (included when indicated by a marked box), or a fee of \$180.00 (a check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed, or if not see section 5 below);

(c) when filed prior to the payment of the Issue Fee, when 1(a)-(b) do not apply, and when a certification is included in section 4 below (included when indicated by a marked box); then the Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) and request(s) consideration of this IDS, and provided herewith is a fee of \$180.00 (a check in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the petition fee, or if not see section 5 below).

2. When 1(a)-(c) do not apply, then it is requested that this IDS be placed in the file.



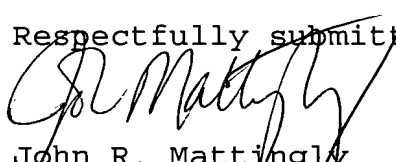
3. Listing of the information submitted is on the attached Form PTO-1449, which forms a part of this IDS. A copy of each listed document is enclosed when needed (needed for U.S. and foreign patents, publication or portion thereof listed; no copy of a U.S. patent application is needed; a copy of a document is not needed when previously submitted or previously cited by the PTO in a parent application of the present application as set forth under 35 U.S.C. § 120).

4. If a fee or additional fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or additional fee that may be required and credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

5. No explanation of relevancy is being provided for the documents listed in the attached PTO-1449 Form, because they are in the English language and/or discussed in the present Specification.

6. If the PTO determines that part(s) of the required content is inadvertently omitted, then it is requested that the Applicant(s) be given additional time and specific identification of such omission(s) to enable full compliance.

Respectfully submitted,



John R. Mattingly
Registration No. 30,293
Attorney for Applicants

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR, P.C.
104 East Hume Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22301
(703) 684-1120
Date: March 22, 2001

FORM PTO-1449 (REV. 7-80)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. NIP-232	SERIAL NO.
LIST OF DOCUMENTS CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)		APPLICANT K. ARAKI et al	
		FILING DATE March 22, 2001	GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

* EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (If Appropriate)
AA	4,935,195	01/19/90	Palusamy et al			<div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"> 11000 U.S. PTO 09/813914 03/22/01 </div>
AB						
AC						
AD						
AE						
AF						
AG						
AH						
AI						
AJ						
AK						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
AL	8-178172	07/12/96	Japan			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AM						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AN						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AO						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AP						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

AR		
AS		
AT		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
----------	-----------------

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.